



VINTAGE N-R

Chronicling life in Yamhill County through the generations with the newspaper photo archives **A7**

Yamhill County's News-Register

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KEEPING YOU CONNECTED SINCE 1866

McMinnville, Oregon 156th year, No. 40

Could be another bad year for fires

State Department of Forestry asks people to stop burning yard debris — or pay the cost

By NICOLE MONTESANO
Of the News-Register

The Oregon Department of Forestry is asking Oregonians to stop burning yard debris, as severe to extreme drought grips the state and fears for another severe wildfire season heat up.

The department said in a recent press release, “about 180 fires have already burned about 1,900 acres. April’s dry, warm conditions prompted some county-wide burn bans,” and the department has declared fire season underway in some parts of the state.

Yamhill County has seen two unusually large wildfires in the past six years.

In 2015 — a year of severe drought and high temperatures that created a severe wildfire season — the Willamina Creek fire burned some 260 acres and forced the evacuation of four, fortunately unoccupied, cabins.

“Any shortage of staff creates a shortage of responders. It’s hard to get enough people to go out and put those fires out.” — Fire chief Fred Hertel

Last year, the Chehalem Mountain-Bald Peak fire, described by Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue Chief Deric Weiss as the “largest wildfire in the existence of TVF&R within our district boundaries,” burned 875 acres and forced the evacuation of 150 homes and countless livestock animals. It was started by an improperly extinguished campfire on private property.

Addressing Yamhill County Commissioners in mid-May, Weiss said that “because of aggressive action by the firefighters, a little help from Mother Nature and topography and maybe some good old fashioned luck, we didn’t lose any houses, nobody lost their life.”

Other areas weren’t so fortunate. Last year was a devastating one in Oregon history. A series

See **FIRES**, A5

Gallery returns to live audiences with ‘Novecento’

One-man show plays May 28 through June 13

By STARLA POINTER
Of the News-Register

Gallery Theater presents a one-man show, “Novecento,” as it reopens to a live audience for the first time in nearly 15 months.

Featuring Gallery veteran Lance Nuttman, the play will debut Friday, May 28, and run Fridays through Sundays, through June 13. Curtain is at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. Masks and social distancing are required.

Tickets are \$20 general and \$16 for students and seniors. They can be purchased at the theater box office or ordered

See **THEATER**, A2

OHA: Providers can’t require parental consent for vaccine

Clarified guidance applies to teenagers 15 and older

By NICOLE MONTESANO
Of the News-Register

The Oregon Health Authority has clarified its guidance to vaccine providers, announcing that state law prohibits providers from requiring parental consent for COVID-19 vaccines for teen-agers of medical

consent age, which is 15 and older.

It sent its update to Yamhill County on May 20, the same day the county commissioners directed Health and Human Services Director Lindsey Manfrin to require parental consent for teen-agers 15 to 17, as reported in the May 21 News-Register edition.

Manfrin had asked the board to wait for OHA guidance.

“At this point I really encourage the board to postpone this. Otherwise, it really feels like I am being asked to do something that goes against Oregon statute,” she told the commissioners on May 20.

However, since she did not know how long it would take to receive the guidance, commissioners Mary Starrett and Lindsay Berschauer said they believed the issue was too

urgent to wait.

“The Oregon Health Authority expects health care providers to follow the law and respect a young person’s decision to get vaccinated against COVID-19,” OHA spokesman Jonathan Modie said in a statement.

“To help providers better under-

See **CONSENT**, A3



During a delivery to Carissa DeYoung, a teacher on special assignment at Columbus Elementary School, Bonnie Mann takes a minute to discuss the items in the family care bag. Mann delivers bags and other items to area schools on behalf of the Give a Little Foundation. Marcus Larson/News-Register

STOPPING BY

‘Kids first, always’

Bonnie Mann, other volunteers help local charity give a lot

By STARLA POINTER
Of the News-Register

Bonnie Mann loves to see the smiles when she brings children gifts from the Give a Little Foundation.

Smiles on the students’ faces. Smiles on the faces of teachers or counselors. A smile on her own face, should she catch a glimpse of herself in the mirror.

Mann, who has been volunteering with the nonprofit assistance organization since 2010, recently delivered a pair of tennis shoes to a boy. His sole pair was leaky and worn, a school counselor had told Give a Little.

“I need to see if I can run in these,” the elementary school student said.

He put them on his feet and raced across the counselor’s office. “These will work,” he said. Everybody smiled.

Mann is vice president of Give a Little, which started in McMinnville in 2007. It fills emergency needs for people of all ages, but has an ongoing focus on helping children,

seniors and people who are making an effort to get back into the workforce to improve their lives.

A former teacher, she has helped with the employment programs, overseen the efforts for seniors and taken charge of supplying children’s needs.

She baked cakes as gifts to encourage new business and professional donors during a drive several years ago.

Her favorite volunteer job, though, is helping children.

“This is where my heart is,” she said. “Kids first, always.”

She has developed contacts at schools around Yamhill County who keep an eye out for needs. When they see a student who needs shoes, clothes, a bicycle or glasses, they give her a call and she goes shopping, either at a local store or in Give a Little’s warehouse.

A few years ago, she formed a partnership with the McMinnville chapter of Knights

See **MANN**, A6

‘A little can go a long way’ to help

The News-Register staff

The nonprofit Give a Little Foundation started in 2006 as a way for the community to help people experiencing financial difficulties. Executive Director Francine Fiore said it offered one-time help with medical bills, rent, utilities or other needs such as car repairs.

The idea was to collect small donations from numerous people, and use them to meet a broad range of needs. “A little bit can go a long way,” Fiore said.

In recent years, she said, Give A Little has expanded to assist seniors who need financial help or assistance with activities; and people who are joining the workforce or continuing their education in order to find employment with work clothes, transportation, help with

See **NONPROFIT**, A6

Events planned to mark Memorial Day

The News-Register staff

Several events are scheduled locally to celebrate Memorial Day weekend Friday through Monday, May 28 to 31.

Originally called Decoration Day, Memorial Day is the federal holiday honoring people who have served in the military, especially those who paid the ultimate price in order to protect the nation’s freedoms.

It also has come to be a day for honoring everyone who has died. Many families make a point of visiting relatives’ graves and decorating

them with flowers and other symbols of affection.

Throughout the weekend, area residents will be able to drive or walk past a display of 5,924 American flags representing Oregonians who have died in military service since World War I.

Students and supporters at McMinnville Christian Academy will set out the flags on Friday. As they place each one, they will say “Thank you for your ultimate sacrifice.”

This is the fourth year they have

created the field of flags adjacent to Baker Creek Community Church, 325 N.W. Baker Creek Road in Northwest McMinnville.

Lighted at night and guarded by vets and first responders, the display will remain until Tuesday morning.

Teacher Tara Hessel, whose son served in the military, started the display in 2018 to help students learn the importance of the holiday. She said she intended to give them a visual representation of how many

See **EVENTS**, A2

N-R PUBLICATION SCHEDULE CHANGE

Because of the Memorial Day holiday, next week’s editions will be published Wednesday and Friday. The News-Register will return to its regular Tuesday/Friday schedule the following week.

McElroy appointed to Sheridan council **A3**

